

**Maine Department of Health Human Services
Office of Child and Family Services
Child Protective Services
Annual Report on CPS Referrals
2009**

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Title 22 MRSA, Chapter 1071, Subsection 4002 defines abuse or neglect as "a threat to a child's health or welfare by physical, mental or emotional injury or impairment, sexual abuse or exploitation, deprivation of essential needs or lack of protection from these by a person responsible for the child."

The following report provides a summary of the number of referrals to Child Protective Services, the number of inappropriate referrals that were screened out and a series of detailed reports on the characteristics of the referrals that were assigned to caseworkers for assessment.

A Referral is any written or verbal request for Child Protective Services intervention in a family situation on behalf of a child in order to assess or resolve problems being presented.

During calendar year 2009 the Department of Human Services received **17,256** referrals for Child Protective Services intervention in a family situation. **9,408** referrals presented situations with evidence of serious family problems or dysfunction but did not contain allegations of child abuse or neglect.

Inappropriate Referrals Received:

Parent/child conflict: Children and parents in conflict over family, school, friends, behaviors with no allegations of abuse or neglect. Includes adolescents who are runaways or who are exhibiting acting out behaviors that parents have been unable to control.

Non Specific allegations or allegations of marginal physical or emotional care which may be poor parenting practice but is not considered abuse or neglect under Maine Law.

Conflicts over Custody and or visitation of children which may include allegations of marginal/poor care.

Families in Crisis due to financial, physical, mental health, or interpersonal problems but there are no allegations of abuse or neglect.

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The Department's ability to respond to reports of child abuse or neglect is based on factors such as the number of caseworkers, the seriousness or complexity of the cases receiving services and the availability of resources. Current staff resources are not sufficient for the Department to assign all of the reports of Child abuse and neglect that it receives to CPS Casework staff.

The Department of Human Services has contracts with private agencies to provide an alternative response to reports of child abuse and neglect when the allegations are considered to be low to moderate severity. **There were 1,707 Appropriate reports involving 3,554 children which were assigned to a Contract Agency for Alternative Response.**

There were 6,141 reports involving 12,171 children assigned to a caseworker for a Child Protective Assessment.

New Reports Assigned for Assessment

Families		Children involved by age group				
Office	Reports	0-4	5-8	9-12	13-15	16-17
Portland	881	678	414	309	200	120
Sanford	247	188	134	97	79	40
Biddeford	562	431	217	215	135	73
Lewiston	1111	1001	572	408	222	122
Augusta	708	598	332	242	148	64
Rockland	530	439	229	212	113	57
Skowhegan	324	261	161	108	81	42
Bangor	1025	907	431	313	205	114
Ellsworth	213	155	95	84	39	22
Machias	150	122	59	48	27	23
Houlton/ Caribou/FK	370	325	180	118	78	38
Central	20	15	18	7	3	3
Statewide	6141	5120	2842	2161	1330	718

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Source of Reports Assigned for Assessment

School Personnel	919
Social Services Personnel	646
Law Enforcement Personnel	1003
Medical Personnel	723
Anonymous	685
Neighbor/Friend	411
Relative	533
Other	160
Mental Health Personnel	493
Self/Family	491
Child Care Personnel	77

Household Type/Living Arrangement of Reports Assigned for Assessment

Two Parent Married	1417
Two Parent Unmarried	1716
One Parent Female	2430
One Parent Male	380
Adoptive Home	28
Relative	154
Non Relative	21

Family Stress Factors Identified During Assessment

Family Violence	1365
Alcohol/Drug Misuse by Parent/Caretaker	2102
Mental/Physical Health Problem	3834
Severe Parent/Child Conflict	716
Severe Acting Out Behavior of Child	654
School Problems	770
Divorce Conflict	570
Emotionally Disturbed Child	592
Runaway	101
Alcohol/Drug Misuse by Child	191
Failure To Thrive Child	32

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Completed Assessments

Office	Completed	Child Abuse/Neglect Found	Unsubstantiated	Findings Rate
Portland	913	317	596	35%
Sanford	237	101	136	43%
Biddeford	613	271	342	44%
Lewiston	1131	452	679	40%
Augusta	708	231	477	33%
Rockland	547	150	397	27%
Skowhegan	330	165	165	50%
Bangor	1042	438	604	42%
Ellsworth	221	111	110	50%
Machias	153	73	80	48%
Caribou	313	109	204	35%
Fort Kent	73	33	40	45%
CPS Total	6281	2451	3830	39%
Institutional Abuse	179	35	144	20%

Data compiled on Assessments begun during calendar year.

Child Abuse & Neglect Victims by Age and Sex

Male	Sexual Abuse	Physical Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Abuse
0-4	25	146	749	254
5-8	24	73	284314	196
9-12	19	64	207	199
13-15	8	29	121	99
16-17	2	16	46	44
Total	78	328	1437	792

Female	Sexual Abuse	Physical Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Abuse
0-4	42	95	629	228
5-8	32	62	284	218
9-12	43	50	201	207
13-15	41	47	125	132
16-17	15	20	45	53
Total	173	274	1284	838